

Weisblat, 2008

**Cleveland State University
Levin College of Urban Affairs
Department of Urban Studies
Fall Semester 2008**

Course Syllabus 410

Proposal Writing and Program Evaluation

- **Fall: 2008 Web-based**
- **Class Dates:** First day, October 25, Foundation Center Visits
- **Instructor:** Gina Weisblat, Ph.D.
- **E-mail address: Utilize WebCT e-mail function**
Boo500@aol.com/g.weisblat@csuohio.edu (use only after
Blackboard for issues), Phone 216-229-5614(home)/216-687-
2000 (CSU)
- **Office Hours: Email to set up an appointment**
- **Location: Room 107, Urban Building, Wednesday 6-7:30pm**
- **Technical Support:** Caryn Eucker (216) 687-6898, or contact the
College Help Desk/Labs, UR 39 & 40 (216) 687-5050 or e-mail:
help@urban.csuohio.edu. **Help Desk Hours Monday – Thursday 8:00**
a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Blackboard/CE 6 Information

How does a student enroll in a Blackboard/CE 6 class?

Once a student registers for the course in CampusNet, they are automatically included in the Blackboard/CE 6 roster. The course will be available to students beginning one week prior to the beginning of the semester.

How to access Blackboard/CE 6?

URL for Blackboard/CE 6:

<http://www.csuohio.edu/elearning/blackboard/index.htm>

Prepare your Browser for Blackboard/CE 6 Using the Check Browser Function

If you are having problems with your browser even after you run the check browser function, go to the Browser Tune-Up page from the check browser window.

Student FAQs

- <http://csuelearning.wikispaces.com/BlackboardCE6-StudentFAQ>
- Blackboard/CE 6 Learning Modules for Students
http://academic.csuohio.edu:8080/rottier_p/CE6/
- Help Feature in Blackboard/CE 6
Login to Blackboard/CE 6. The help link is located in the upper right corner. Search for the feature you wish to learn more about.

- Help for Urban Students
Caryn Eucker, Coordinator, Technology Services
216.687.6898
caryn@urban.csuohio.edu

- Urban Affairs Technology Help Desk
216.687.2200
help@urban.csuohio.edu

Submitting Written Assignments on BB/CE6:

Enter the assignment section and click on the appropriate assignment. On the top you will see the paper topic written out and the date. On the bottom half of the page you will see the section for submitting your paper. Students should utilize the following steps to submit their research papers on BB/CE6:

- (1) Hit the button called "upload file". It will take you to another screen.
- (2) Hit "browse", which will ask you to choose a file. Find your file on which ever drive (i.e., "C" drive, floppy, jump drive, CD, etc.) it is located on and open the file. The file name will then show up in the file name box.
- (3) Hit "upload". You will return to the assignment screen. You should see your file listed in the blue box. Above it you will see the status as un-submitted. You now need to submit the file.
- (4) Hit the button "submit assignment" on the bottom of the screen. To receive notification that your document has been successfully submitted, enter your e-mail address in the box directly above the submit assignment button. This will allow BB/CE6 to e-mail you a notification indication your paper was successfully submitted.

YOU MUST NAME THE FILE WITH YOUR NAME AND PUT YOUR LAST NAME AND COURSE NUMBER ON THE PAGES OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT IN THE FOOTER ALONGSIDE THE PAGE NUMBER.

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For example: (page) # Last name, PAD 510/410

NOTE: If you are unable to successfully upload your research paper utilizing the aforementioned steps, students may also e-mail their papers as an attachment to the instructor via BB/CE6.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Refer to the CSU Undergraduate Bulletin for policies and procedures for add/drop and withdrawal, grading (including incomplete), and other questions.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Persons anticipating needing special accommodations to take exams or complete assignments must identify themselves to the instructor by the end of the second week of classes. These include accommodations for physical handicaps, learning disabilities, and English as a second language.

GRADING

Grading Scale

The following percentage scores, along with some comments, describe my grading system.

Percent Range Letter Grade Comments

Percent	Grade	Comment
100 – 94	A	Given for work that not only meets all expectations, but also contains an impressive level of insight and effort.
93 – 90	A-	Given for work that not only meets all expectations, but also contains some unique elements of insight and effort.
89 – 87	B+	Given for very good work that meets all expectations.
86 – 84	B	Given for work that meets most expectations, but contains some problems.
83 – 80	B-	Given for work that meets some expectations, but contains numerous problems.
79 – 77	C+	Given for work that is passing, yet somewhat problematic.
76 – 74	C	Given for work that is passing, yet quite problematic.
73 – 70	C-	Given for work that is passing, yet very problematic.
69 – 67	D+	Given for unsatisfactory work.

Course Description

This course will focus on the elements and processes of program planning, proposal writing and program evaluation. The rationale for this course is the organizational concern for planning, funding and accountability. **Urban planners, public and nonprofit administrators are expected to identify and solve problems and to think and act strategically.** In addition, planners and managers must possess the skills necessary to obtain funding and to determine the impact of a particular program and/or policy. Students will gain experience and skills through the development and writing of a proposal.

Course Objectives

- By the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:
- Understand the program planning process
- Develop a project/program plan
- Understand and apply research principles and methods to needs assessment and program evaluation

Course Objectives (Continued)

- Design an evaluation plan
- Relate major trends and issues in public and nonprofit funding to the allocation decisions of government, corporate and foundation donors
- Identify and understand key components and practical steps for proposal preparation
- Demonstrate the skills to research plan and write a proposal
- Demonstrate familiarity with social, political and institutional change in the urban environment

Course Methods

This course will be taught in a web format. Class sessions will consist of assigned readings, posts, live chats, guest presentations (foundation center) and group exercises.

Students are expected to be active members in class and participate in class discussions and exercises.

Grading

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the following percentages:

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Assignment	Grade Weight	Due Date
Foundation Finder	15%	9/20
Paper One	10%	10/4
Funding Chart	15%	11/15
Proposal	30%	12/9
Class Discussion Questions	20%	posted

Students should refer to the CSU bulletin for procedures for drop-add, withdrawal, S/U grading and incomplete.

Class Materials

The following assigned manuals have been ordered and are available through the Cleveland State University Bookstore.

- **Kiritz, Norton, Program Planning and Proposal Writing**
- **Weisblat, Gina, Get That Grant**
- **Attached is an “electronic book” FROM A SERIES OF INTERNET SITES**
- **Levitt, Steven *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything***
- **Foundations Center’s Guide to Wining Proposals**

Foundation Finder

Go to the Foundation Center Web-Site (you may have to look else where for some of the foundation/corporation information) and complete the following steps. **Please write a page on each step indicating what you did and key points of what was learned at each of these spots.**

- 1) Look up in the learning lab the glossary and read it.
- 2) Look up the short course on proposal writing and read it.
- 3) Go to the frequently asked questions and find answers to the 15 most frequently asked questions at the Foundation Center.
- 4) Find (Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, Mt. Sinai Foundation, Saint Luke’s Foundation, Eaton Corporation, Cleveland Foundation and Gund Foundation) and look up general information (funding guidelines, mission, what they fund).
- 5) Find the top foundations, corporations and community foundations by asset size and total

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- giving (This is a list). Discuss implications, trends etc.
- 6) Find the RFP Bulletin and 3 different RFPs. Discuss the set up, how these need to be approached, do you see any commonalities?
 - 7) Find the Prospect worksheet (Discuss why they ask these questions, what you should do here, how you would approach this).
 - 8) Find one government RFP: hint: Gov. Grant (Discuss why they ask these questions, what you should do here (format), how you would approach this).
 - 9) Find five articles (at least one page in length) on funding topics. Discuss the key points learned from each of these articles (What the article was about, key information learned, and was it credible, how you can apply this information).
 - 10) Find and print out a 990Pf of one of the foundations or corporations that you research, look over the grants given and the board and compare it to the Annual Report.

Paper One

Paper One on *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything* should be 8-10pages. Please find the key premise of the book and give examples as to why this is relevant to grant writing and evaluation. Some thoughts here:

1. As a grant writer how do you frame your story?
2. What evidence exists that is supportive or not?
3. Why did you choose the supporting evidence that you did?
4. Can you come at the problem in a different fashion?
5. How much do you need to give and what evidence do you want to stick with the reader?

Funding Charts

Students will collect information on ten foundations (These should be related to the area that you are seeking funds in). The information will then be compiled in a chart. Please see format example below. If you are unable to find the information needed, call the foundation. If you are still unsuccessful, please let me know. The charts will more then likely, fill two to three pages. Please, label each page with appropriate headings and number.

Foundation Name/ Address	Mission	Type of Funding	Will Not Fund	Application Process	Funding Cycle	Special Instructions	Highs, Lows and averages	Key Organizations Funded
Cleveland Foundation (give								

**CONTACT
PERSON,
address and
phone//fax/E-
mail)**

Funding Chart (Continued)

1. Mission – Please find the foundations mission. If there is not a mission listed, please create one based on the materials that you have read about the foundation.
 2. Type of Funding – What kind of things does this foundation focus on: Arts and Culture, Capital Funds... and who do they like to fund: Seniors, Women, Minorities, Youth...
 3. Will Not Fund – What type of things will they not fund: equipment, individuals, food...
 4. Application Process – How do you apply: is it on-line, do you need to send an LOI, concept paper, respond to an rfp, answer certain questions, is there a deadline?
 5. Funding cycle – What is the time frame on when this foundation funds their applicants? How many times a year do they fund?
 6. Special Instructions – Find some type of information that will help you complete this proposal most successfully.
 7. Highs, Lows and Average – What is the highest award, lowest award and average range of an award... you will need to look up the tax return or AR to figure the average range.
 8. Key organizations funded – Please name 3 non-profits that were funded and with relevant amounts on “like minded” projects.
-

Grant Proposal Assignment

All students will be expected to write a proposal for class. The proposal will be turned in with the following sections:

- 1) Cover Letter (This is a must, regardless of grant qualifications)
- 2) Summary/Abstract
- 3) Introduction
- 4) Problem Statement or Needs Assessment
- 5) Goals and Objectives
- 6) Methods
- 7) Evaluation
- 8) Future or Other Necessary Funding
- 9) Budget/Budget Justification
- 10) Appendix

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11) *LOI is optional. You can receive an additional five points on your proposal if you turn in a quality LOI. However, it will not hurt your grade if you choose not to do one.

All proposals should be in top presentation form. Do not forget table of contents, cover page, page numbering, tabs in-between appendix.

Grant Proposal (Continued)

Each proposal must also include the guidelines for the foundation to which students are applying.

*Proposal may vary from this outline, if approved in advance by class instructor. This might occur, for example, if foundation guidelines require a specific format.

*****Students are encouraged to work in groups of two to four people for the grant proposal and presentation. Students are also encouraged to turn in drafts of their proposal and cover letter throughout the semester.***

Foundation Center Visit

All students are required to attend one session at the foundation center. The information will be posted on Blackboard after the first week.

Discussion Questions

1. Please post a complete thought and use proper language (no text message style posting).
2. Please respond to the question of the week and respond to your peers' posts.
3. Discussion questions will be graded each week based on a rubric. Please see the rubric under the grade determination section of this syllabus.
4. I will make general comments in response on BB, and will email directly to individuals if there are issues with your post or something is exceptional.

GRADE DETERMINATION

Funding Charts

No heading	Loss of one-half grade
Missing pieces of information, or incorrect information	
1-2	A-
3-5	B+
6-8	B-
9-11	C+
12-14	C

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15-17	C-
18-20	D+
21-23	D
24-26	D-

All blatant errors and misinformation will lead to loss of a half or full grade as well

Paper One:

Rubric for grading each paper:

Criteria	Level 1 (50-59)	Level 2 (60-69)	Level 3 (70-79)	Level 4 (80-100)	Mks
Introduction / Thesis	-weak introduction of topic, thesis & subtopics -thesis is weak and lacks an arguable position	-adequate introduction that states topic , thesis and some of the subtopics - thesis is somewhat clear and arguable	-proficient introduction that states topic, thesis, and all subtopics in proper order - thesis is a clear and arguable statement of position	-exceptional introduction that grabs interest of reader and states topic, thesis, and all subtopics in proper order - thesis is exceptionally clear, arguable, well developed, and a definitive statement	/8
Quality of Information / Evidence	-limited information on topic with lack of research, details or historically accurate evidence	-some aspects of paper is researched with some accurate evidence from limited sources	-paper is well researched in detail with accurate & critical evidence from a variety of sources	-paper is exceptionally researched, extremely detailed and historically accurate with critical evidence from a wide variety of sources	/12
Support of Ideas /	-limited connections made between	-some connections made between	-consistent connections made	-exceptionally critical, relevant and consistent	/10

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Analysis	evidence, subtopics, counterarguments & thesis / topic -lack of analysis	evidence, subtopics, counterarguments & thesis / topic showing analysis	between evidence, subtopics, counterarguments & thesis / topic showing good analysis	connections made between evidence, subtopics, counterarguments & thesis / topic showing excellent analysis	
Organization / Development of Ideas	-paper lacks clear and logical development of ideas with weak transition b/w ideas and paragraphs	-somewhat clear and logical development of subtopics with adequate transitions b/w paragraphs	-clear and logical subtopic order that supports thesis with good transitions b/w paragraphs	-exceptionally clear, logical, mature, and thorough development of subtopics that support thesis with excellent transition b/w paragraphs	/10
Conclusion	-lack of summary of topic, thesis & subtopics with weak concluding ideas	-adequate summary of topic, thesis and some subtopics with some final concluding ideas	-good summary of topic, thesis and all subtopics with clear concluding ideas	-excellent summary of topic (with no new information), thesis & all subtopics in proper order with concluding ideas that leave an impact on reader	/5
Language Conventions	- inconsistent grammar, spelling and paragraphing throughout paper	-paper has some errors in grammar, spelling and paragraphing	-paper is clear, with mostly proper grammar, spelling and paragraphing	-paper is very concise, clear, with consistently proper grammar, spelling and paragraphing	/5
Total					

Discussion Questions

Rubric for grading weekly:

Performance Element	Distinguished ____ Points	Proficient ____ Points	Intermediate ____ Points	Novice ____ Points	Possible	Score
Purpose and Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes and maintains clear focus; evidence of distinctive voice and/or appropriate tone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused on a purpose; evidence voice and/or suitable tone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An attempt to establish and maintain purpose and communicate with the audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited awareness of audience and/or purpose 		
Development of Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depth and complexity of ideas supported by rich, engaging and/or pertinent details; evidence analysis, reflection and insight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depth of idea development supported by elaborated, relevant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unelaborated idea development; unelaborated and/or repetitious details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal idea development, limited and/or unrelated 		

		details		details		
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of references indicate substantial research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of references indicate ample research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some references 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few references 		
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful and/or suitable organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logical organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lapses in focus and/or coherence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Random or weak organization 		
Sentence Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variety of sentence structure and length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlled and varied sentence structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplistic and/or awkward sentence structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorrect or lack of topic and/or ineffective wording and/or sentence structure 		

Proposal Grading

Grant Rubric

- 4—Clearly a knowledgeable, practiced, skilled pattern
- 3—Evidence of a developing pattern
- 2—Superficial, random, limited consistencies
- 1—Unacceptable skill application

Use of Sources

Skill application demonstrates use which represents →	4	3	2	1
Researched information appropriately documented/headings etc for proposal				
Enough outside information to clearly represent a research process				

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Demonstrates use of paraphrasing, direct, and indirect quotations				
Information connects to grant				
Sources on Works Cited/Bibliography or References accurately match sources cited within the text				

_____/20

Content/Organization

Skill application demonstrates use which represents →	4	3	2	1
Needs statement engaging and clearly defines thesis				
Grant premise is challenging and focused				
Content connecting to thesis is clarifying, exploring, explaining, developing				
Text organization flows sensibly and smoothly				
Mixture of personal voice interwoven with research (commentary, when appropriate)				
Conclusion thoughtful, engaging, and clear				

_____/24

Mechanics/Usage/ Format

Skill application demonstrates use which represents →	4	3	2	1
Follow grant guidelines				
12 point Times New Roman font and appropriate margins/Ariel for Headings				
Usage/Grammar				
Use of charts/graphs and other support information				
Written in formal style				

_____/20

Grant Elements

Skill application demonstrates use which represents →	4	3	2	1
Consistent Format /Table of contents/Appendix/Page numbering				
Abstract Written clearly as outlined on Power point				
Introduction Written Clearly as outlined in power point				
Future Funding concise and realistic				
Evidence of thorough research (sources represent variety and types) Needs Statement				
Goals and Objectives follow Power point (SIMPLE)				
Methods Chart/approach and time line demonstrated				
Budget detailed and appropriate/ Budget Summary notes key expenses				
Introduction/ organization credibility Mission understandable				
Cover Letter follows guidelines and is convincing				

_____/40

Foundation Finder Assignment (Rubric used on each Summary)

Area of Assessment	Exceptional 4	Good 3	Average 2	Below Average 1
<p>Learning Stretch: Exceptional: Student explores a new area, demonstrates new skills, and extensively expands upon prior knowledge. The student effort is inspiring and growth falls within the cognitive and the affective domains. Good: Learning stretch is clearly evident. Student demonstrates some new skills and knowledge. Average: Learning stretch is moderate; the student stays clearly within a learning comfort zone. Below Average: Little, if anything, is learned.</p>				
<p>Application of Knowledge: Exceptional: Obvious depth and complexity of prior knowledge and new knowledge is applied to complete the focus of the discussion. The student demonstrates and applies technical and comprehensive understanding. Good: The use of general knowledge and some depth is evident. Average: The use of predominately superficial knowledge application is evident in the project. Below Average: Demonstrates rote learning with inaccurate application and little or no real understanding.</p>				

Course Schedule

The last section of the syllabus notes what needs to be read by what date, the power points that need to be viewed and the discussion questions.

Discussion Questions	Readings	Power Points (PP)/video Clips(VC)	Due Date
<p>Create a step ladder for the three bears' story (from Video Clip) on anything that you would like. Use an outline form to simplify the post. Example Below.</p>	<p>Get That Grant</p>	<p>VC: Step Ladder PP: Vocabulary</p>	<p>9/13</p>
<p>Create a cocktail conversation on your project. Please post three key points from this and explain your rationale.</p>	<p>Program Planning and Proposal Writing</p>	<p>VC: Cocktail Conversation/ grant questions PP: Cocktail Conversation, Grant questions,</p>	<p>9/20</p>

		grant sites	
Please share 3 key pieces of information that you learned from visiting these sites.	Visit all sites: "grant writing on the web"	PP: Cover letters etc, needs assessment	10/4
Please choose one grant and share 3 points that make it outstanding and how you can apply this to your work. Focus on Needs Assessment	Foundations Center's Guide to Wining Proposals	PP: Cover letters etc, needs assessment	10/11
Please choose one grant and share 3 points that make it outstanding and how you can apply this to your work. Focus On Goals and Objectives	Foundations Center's Guide to Wining Proposals	VC: Methods Chart PP: Goals and Objectives, Methods	10/18
Please choose one grant and share 3 points that make it outstanding and how you can apply this to your work. Focus Methods	Foundations Center's Guide to Wining Proposals	PP: Goals and Objectives, Methods	11/1
Please choose one grant and share 3 points that make it outstanding and how you can apply this to your work. Focus on Evaluation.	Foundations Center's Guide to Wining Proposals	PP: Evaluation, Budget, Tips, Appendices	11/15
Please choose one grant and share 3 points that make it outstanding and how you can apply this to your work. Focus on Budget	Foundations Center's Guide to Wining Proposals	PP: Evaluation, Budget, Tips, Appendices	11/22
Please name 1 exceptional thing in each proposal reviewed, and name 2 issues in each as to why they may not be fundable.	Outside Grant for Review	3 grants will be posted for review	12/6

Grant Writing on the Web

Please use the print outs from the first three sites, as well as information from the sites listed to build your own library on grant writing. I would recommend that you buy a three ring binder, and print information out to store in it. The information that you gain from these sites is considered required supplemental reading for this class. Pace yourself, and review the information throughout the course.

1. School Grants, grant writing tips: www.schoolgrants.org/tips.htm
 - a. Through the eyes of the grant reviewer
 - b. Grant writing tips
 - c. Ken Ristine's hints for a letter of Inquiry

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2. Non profit guides – grant writing tools for non-profit organizations: <http://www.npguides.com/guide>
 - a. Basic Steps
 - b. Preliminary Proposal
 - c. Inquiry Letter
 - d. Full Proposal
 - e. Components
 - f. Cover Letter
 - g. Cover Sheet
 - h. Budget
 - i. Sample Proposal
 - j. Private RFP
 - k. Public RFP
 - l. Public Proposal

3. Grant Writing Research Tools and Methods (Penn State): cedev.aers.psu.edu/grantwriting/tools_and_methods.htm
 - a. Finding the Funds You Need: A Guide for Grant Seekers

Continued on the next page...

Grant Writing on the Web (continued)

4. Sites to Visit and Explore

- EPA Grant Writing Tutorial
 - <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/seahome/grants.html>: Due EPA Tutorial
- Guide For Writing A Funding Proposal
 - <http://learnerassociates.net/proposal/>
- "Writing Winning Grants" booklet
 - <http://www.anovember.com/grants.html>
- Grant Writing Tips Sheets
 - http://grants.nih.gov/grants/grant_tips.htm
- 10-Point Plan for Standard Grant Funding Proposal
 - <http://www.npguides.org/grant/>
- Beginning Grant Writing
 - <http://www.uml.edu/College/Education/Faculty/lebaron/GRANTBEGIN/>
- Discovery - Grant Sources for Educators
 - <http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/business/grants.html>

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- Foundation/Corporation Library
 - <http://web.gisd.k12.mi.us/gisd/Grants/FundPriorities.htm>
- Federal Government
 - www.grants.gov
- Federal Register
 - www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/index.html
- National Science Foundation www.nsf.gov
- School Grants
 - www.schoolgrants.org
- The Council of Foundations
 - <http://www.cof.org>
- The Foundation Center
 - www.fdncenter.org
- The Grantsmanship Center
 - <http://www.tgci.com>
- U.S. Department of Education
 - www.ed.gov/funding.html
- The Chronicle of Philanthropy
 - <http://www.philanthropy.com/>
- Educational Funding Strategies
 - <http://www.icu.com/efs/>

Step Ladder Example

Goal:

Objective:

1. List step one
 - a. List the outside points
2. List step two
 - a. List the outside points

Use this method all the way through the post on this item.